

**SEMINOLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

SUBJECT: FY 09 Recovery Act – Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Local Program

DEPARTMENT: Sheriff's Office

DIVISION:

AUTHORIZED BY: Sharon Peters, Sabrina O'Bryan **CONTACT:** Penny Fleming **EXT:** 6617

MOTION/RECOMMENDATION:

Board approval for the Sheriff's Office to execute and submit grant application to the US Department of Justice, Recovery Act –Local JAG formula grant program and authorize the Sheriff to sign future documents relating to the grant.

County-wide

Penny Fleming

BACKGROUND:

Seminole County has tentatively been approved to receive funds from the Recovery Act - Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance (JAG) formula grant program. The Recovery Act – Local JAG program funds can be utilized for local initiatives, technical assistance, training, personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support, and information systems for criminal justice.

The tentative amount of the grant allocation is \$259,567 which can be utilized for 3 years with no required match. The Sheriff's Office plans to utilize the funds to hire a School Resource Deputy to be assigned to the Seminole County Public Schools' District Alternative School. Known formerly as Excel and operated by an outside contractor, this alternative education site will be brought back under the SCPS umbrella in August 2009. Students at the Alternative School are those who generally have a history of discipline problems often escalating over time and are at risk of not succeeding academically.

The School Resource Deputy (S.R.D.) program is designed to put a uniformed deputy in the school setting with the goals of:

- Providing students, faculty and staff the opportunity to meet and interact with a Deputy in a non-confrontational setting. Many people, especially our young people, do not often get the chance to learn about who Deputies are, "behind the badge." This program provides the opportunity for the Deputy to serve as a role model as well as a resource and a mentor to students who have questions or needs that the Deputy can assist with;
- to act as a deterrent to crime in the school building, on the school campus, and in the community surrounding the school not only through the uniformed presence, but also by developing positive relationships with students, faculty, staff, and community members;
- provide classroom instruction and other information to students, faculty and staff

- concerning the law, personal rights and responsibilities and other law-enforcement related topics;
- provide for the safety and security of the school's students, faculty, staff and visitors.

With the current economic crisis and impending budget shortfalls these types of efforts would not be possible without federal assistance. The Seminole County Sheriff's Office would like to continue its long standing cooperative effort with the School Board of assigning S.R.D.'s where warranted to schools within Seminole County.

Additionally Reviewed By:

☒ Grant Review (Jennifer Bero, Lisa Spriggs)